

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-16. (canceled)

17. (Currently Amended) A method of detecting the relative level of insulin resistance in diagnosing an individual who has Type 2 diabetes or is prediabetic, the method comprising,

detecting in a sample from the individual the level of a polypeptide ~~or the level of a polynucleotide encoding the polypeptide, wherein the~~ encoded by a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a nucleic acid encoding an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:4, or SEQ ID NO:6,

wherein an increased ~~a modulated~~ level of the polypeptide ~~or polynucleotide~~ in the sample compared to a level of the polypeptide ~~or polynucleotide~~ in either:

a lean individual or

a previous sample from the individual

indicates ~~that the individual is diabetic or prediabetic~~ an increased level of insulin resistance in the individual compared to:

the insulin resistance level in the lean individual or

the insulin resistance level of the individual at the time of the previous

sample was taken,

thereby detecting the relative level of insulin resistance in the individual.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the detecting step comprises contacting the sample with an antibody that specifically binds to the polypeptide.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Canceled)

21. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the sample is a blood, urine or tissue sample.

22-26. (Cancelled)

27. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the polypeptide comprises SEQ ID NO:2.

28. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the level of the polypeptide in the individual is compared to a baseline or range.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the baseline value is representative of the level of the polypeptide in a healthy individual.

30. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the individual is a human.

31. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the individual is pre-diabetic.